GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:26
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2003
NEW TARIFFS
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI;SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telephone Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has proposed certain changes in the tariff and call charges in regard to land line telephone;

(b) if so, the details therof with reasons and justification therefor;

(c) whether the Government have received a large number of representations from the public and others against these proposals of TRAI;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(e) whether the Government propose to make amendments in these proposals of the TRAI;

(f) if so, the details therof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND DISINVESTMENT (ARUN SHOURIE)

(a) to (g): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (g) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 26 FOR 19TH FEBRUARY, 2003 REGARDING NEW TARIFFS.

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The power to fix tariffs for telecom services is mandated to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India only. TRAI, after detailed consultations through its Consultation Papers and its Open House Discussions,has revised this tariff. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has vide the 24th Amendment to the Telecommunication Tariff Order (TTO)1999, made certain changes in tariffs with regard to rental, call charges & pulse duration for land line telephones which will come into effect from 1st April, 2003. The details of changes in major items of tariff are placed at Annexure.

(c) & (d): Certain representations have been received and these have been forwarded to TRAI for appropriate action.

(e) to (g): No, Sir. As per sub-section 11(2) of the TRAI Act, 1997, as amended in 2000, the power to fix tariffs for telecom services is mandated to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, which is now the only authority for exercising this power. Service providers (including PSUs), however, have the flexibility of having their own tariff packages within the ceilings/floors prescribed by TRAI.

ANNEXURE

A. RURAL RENTALS (Monthly in Rupees):

Capacity of local Exchange (no. of lines)	Existing TRAI Ceiling		Proposed by TRAI
Sr.	Others		
Citizen			
Upto 999	70	70	70
1000-29,999	120	120	120
30,000-99,999	180	180	200
1 lakh and above	250	250	280

B. URBAN RENTALS (Monthly in Rupees):

Capacity of local Exchange (no. of lines)	Existing TRAI Ceiling Sr. Citizen Residential Subscribers		Proposed by TRAI
Upto 29,999	120	120	120
30,000-99,999	180	180	200
1 lakh and above	250	250	280

C. Number of FREE CALLS (Per month)

Existing TRAI Ceiling	Proposed by TRAI
Rural	75	50
Urban	60	30

D. CALL CHARGES (in Rupee, per metered call)

Existing TRAI slabs		Proposed by TRAI	
Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
0-75 Free	0-60 Free	0-50 Free	0-30 Free
76-500 @0.80	61-500 @0.80	51-300 @0.80	31-300 @0.1.00
>500 @1.20	>500 @1.20	>300 @1.20	>300 @1.20

E. Pulse Rate (in Seconds)

Existing	Proposed by TRAI
Calls to basic services network	120
Calls to all networks	180
Calls to cellular (Metro area)	90
Calls to cellular (Circle area)	60